

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART  
CLEVELAND 6, OHIO  
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FOR RELEASE

PAINTING OF THE MONTH

"Game of Backgammon" by David Teniers the Younger, (Antwerp 1610-Brussels 1690).

This canvas, painted during Teniers' best period, hangs in Gallery 7 of The Cleveland Museum of Art. It was given to the Museum twenty-one years ago by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Wise who bought it at a sale in 1925 at Christie's in London. The 23 5/8" x 32 1/4" work had originally been painted on panel by the 17th century Flemish master, but was in 1845, transferred from panel to canvas, and then lined, by F. W. Leedham.

The picture portrays a genre scene, and focuses on a game of backgammon at its climax. There are onlookers, and in another part of the room, a group of men pass the time drinking and smoking. In the right foreground there is a small still life which includes a slipper, tools and a little dog asleep.

Teniers was a prolific painter. His subject material encompassed not only genre scenes, but landscapes, portraits and work of religious, mythological and historical content. His most successful pictures, though, are those that deal with cozy, intimate groups.

Teniers was a student of his father, David Teniers, the Elder. He imitated him at first until his genius, far greater than that of his father's, dominated. He painted with a clear, silvery quality, a freedom and elasticity of handling.

He became Master between 1632 and 1633 and was made Dean of the St. Luke Guild in Antwerp in 1645. In 1651 he moved to Brussels and was appointed court painter by Archduke Leopold Wilhelm, Governor of the Netherlands. In 1662 he founded an Art Academy in Antwerp.